

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

18N 2W 24

FILE COPY

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

TN 103

1 NAME

HISTORIC William G. White Residence

AND/OR COMMON

"Towerhouse Mansion" and "White House" by present owners

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1431 Eleventh Avenue East

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Olympia

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3rd - Donald L. Bonker

STATE

Washington

CODE

53

COUNTY

Thurston

CODE

067

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☒ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME W. M. McBee

STREET & NUMBER

1431 Eleventh Avenue East

CITY, TOWN

Olympia

VICINITY OF

STATE

Washington

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Thurston County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Olympia

STATE

Washington

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Washington State Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

1974

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

CITY, TOWN

Olympia

STATE

Washington

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The three story home at 1431 Eleventh Avenue East in Olympia is an eclectic blend of Queen Anne and Eastlake architectural styles. Built in 1893 by William White, the 17 room house originally overlooked Swantown Slough, an inlet of Puget Sound. That inlet has since been filled, but the home stands atop a knoll reminiscent of its original vantage over water.

The large frame residence is basically rectangular in plan with a hipped roof although gabled roof lines intersecting the main form tend to confuse the appearance of the roof. The most dominant feature is the square tower, scaled a full three stories and emerging from the northeast corner of the building; it is capped by a steep pyramidal roof with finial.

The house is most notable for its ornate decoration. Turned spindles, cross pieces, balusters and posts adorn the porches and gables. Angled and vertical boarding enhance gable ends and tower. In addition to scrolled brackets supporting each horizontal eave, the bargeboards themselves are adorned by very delicate carved designs. Decorative dentils underpin all of the eaves as well as the Italianate square bay windows on either side of the house on the main floor. The house has a rather ordinary fenestration, but the decorative surrounds on the first story extend below the window opening and into a stylized water table, delineated by vertical boarding and small cornice, continuous around the base of the house.

The house remains largely as built. The major modification is the application of an asbestos material over the original wood siding. The roof is clad with asphalt shingles and each crest line carries what appears to be a metal railing of the type used on concrete porches; this last is probably the most obtrusive alteration. A vent or flue of recent construction rises from the rear of the house. The present owners have made several changes on the grounds: a prominent gazebo at the northeast corner of the lot and a three-bay carport adjacent to the main building. Later additions include a pair of lions flanking the entry walk.

The interior of the house has been refurbished by its present owners and although several appointments in the kitchen-pantry area have been altered, the main floor is still intact. During the tenure of one of its many owners, the house was divided into apartments. Several of the walls put in place then have been removed in accordance with the original construction. However, the back stairway and stairs to the third floor ballroom remain closed off. The flooring and appointments of the ballroom have been removed and a small building to the rear of the house was built with this timber. The present owners also retain an apartment area on the second floor which varies from the original floor plan.

The owners have filled the house with period antiques and now conduct tours for a fee through the house by appointment. Among the original fixtures is the main floor bathroom which still has an 1890's vintage water closet, tub and sink. In addition to the front and back parlors, on the main floor there is a bedroom or burning room adjacent to the bathroom and kitchen which is a customary feature of 19th century houses. The pantry and kitchen have been altered but the dining room exhibits some lovely spindlework, a favorite embellishment of the day. The side porch opens onto the dining room. All of the interior doorways have transoms to allow light into the rooms. The interior woodwork is cedar and follows the medallion design of the exterior moldings.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES	built 1893	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	William G. White, builder
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The William G. White house stands in an area of Olympia once known as "Swantown" where White was a carpenter and lumberman. Mr. White had bad luck in the house both because of the financial hard times of 1893 and the death of his wife in childbirth shortly after the completion of the house. The house was foreclosed in 1895 by the Oregon Mortgage Company and since that time has had a variety of owners, both private citizens and banking institutions. It had fallen into a state of disrepair before the present owners set about restoring it.

Although no one owner stands out as an historical or prominent figure, several accounts about the house mirror Olympia's history. It is said that the house was built partly with money loaned by Governor Elisha P. Ferry in 1893. The house was located in Swantown near Olympia, at the time densely wooded and remote since the Swantown Slough separated it from the town of Olympia; many other inlets of Puget Sound divided Olympia at its beginning. A former resident of the house claims it was one of the town's most handsome homes around the turn of the century when it was owned by Theodore L. Brown. Foreclosed for \$2,000 in 1895, it was being sold for \$5,500 by 1910. During the 1930's it was divided into apartments and its no longer used ballroom dismantled.

The house is a representative example of the kind of architecture and architectural embellishment that was common in Olympia around the turn of the century. Most other examples of homes of that era have either been torn down or altered to great extent. The White House is then unique as an example of Olympia in 1893 and also for its own decoration and design.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interview with Mrs. McBee.

Washington State Library clipping file.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

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D

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The northeast portion of Block Six of Ayers Addition to the City of Olympia

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Shanna Stevenson

ORGANIZATION

DATE

October, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

712 Carlyon

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Olympia

Washington

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ☐

STATE ☐

LOCAL ☐

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY:

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

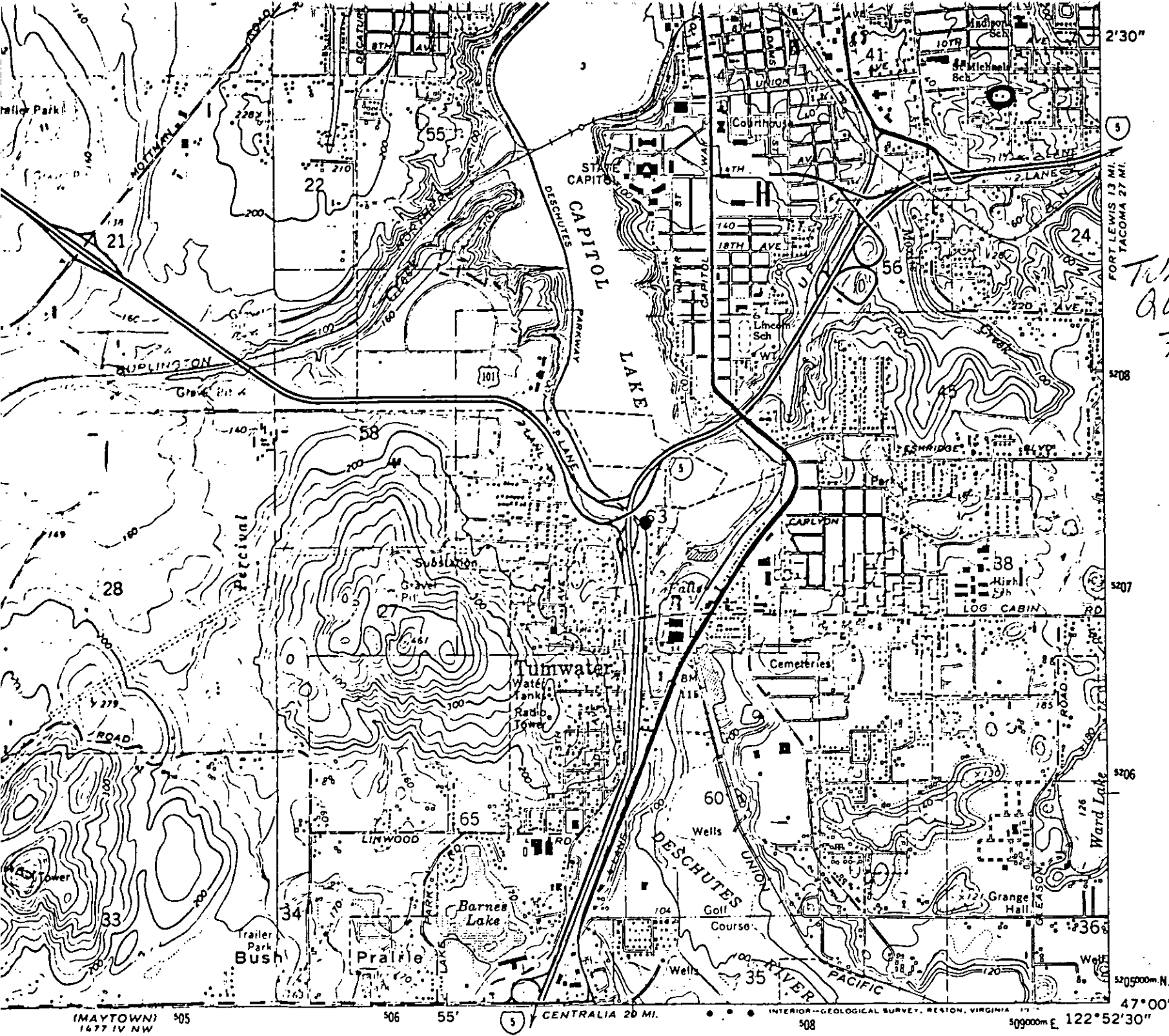
DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER





William G. White House

Olympia, Washington

David Hansen

April, 1977

Washington State Parks & Recreation Comm.

View of northeast corner

